



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Presentation of National Playground Safety Institute Certified Employee

MEETING DATE: November 6, 2002

PREPARED BY: Parks and Recreation Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Presentation of National Playground Safety Institute Certified Employee, Larry Moore.

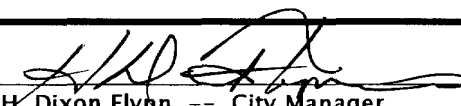
BACKGROUND INFORMATION: America's youth have long enjoyed the benefits of public playgrounds. The challenges found on a playground are a great asset for the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of the children at play. Many of today's adults remember hours of fun and adventure spent on the playgrounds of their childhood. But, all too often, these memories are mixed with pain. Kids play hard and that means they are going to occasionally skin an elbow or bruise a shin.

Statistics have shown a dramatic increase in playground-related injuries. It is estimated that every 2 ½ minutes a child is treated in an emergency room for such injuries, this does not include those injuries that do not make it to the emergency room. Nearly 70% of all injuries occur on public playground, most contributing factor being falls to the surface. Thirty-four percent are related to maintenance. We as a Government Agency have mandatory duties set forth in the Health and Safety Code Article 2 requiring us to comply with sections of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety, Publication Number 325, of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and sections of the Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use.

Article 2, section 65715 requires playground operators to perform an initial inspection of their playgrounds by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. To become a Certified Playground Safety Inspector, one must attend fifteen hours of training from nationally known playground safety experts and do advanced reading. The examination is the principal requirement for continuation of certification as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. It is designed to assess the core knowledge of current playground standards and guidelines and is administered under the auspices of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the National Playground Safety Institute.

It is my privilege to announce that the City of Lodi Parks Division now has two Certified Playground Safety Inspectors on staff. On August 24, 2002, Larry Moore our division's Welder/Mechanic successfully met the requirements set forth by the National Playground Safety Institute. This winter Larry will be performing equipment audits on all of the cities playgrounds.

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

10/23/02



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FUNDING: None


Roger Baltz
Parks and Recreation Director

Prepared by Steve Dutra, Parks Superintendent

RB/SD/lb

cc: City Attorney

APPROVED: _____

H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager

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